CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

Sub. a)

1.   A method for indicating the status of a battery in a portable computing

5   device, the method comprising:

retrieving battery status data from a basic input-output system (BIOS) on

the computing device, the battery status data reflective of a characteristic of the battery;

comparing the retrieved battery status data to a predefined battery status

threshold stored on the computing device; and

10   based on the comparison of the battery status data to the predefined battery

status threshold, providing a battery status indicator to an applications program on the

computing device.

Sub. b)

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein retrieving battery status data from a basic

15 input-output system (BIOS) on the computing device comprises retrieving battery status

data relating to the voltage of the battery from the BIOS on the computing device.

3.   The method of claim 1, wherein retrieving the battery status data comprises

the applications program initiating a BIOS interrogating routine to retrieve battery status

20 data from a basic input-output system (BIOS) on the computing device.

4.   The method of claim 1 further comprising:

providing a user perceptible battery status indicator via the applications

program on the computing device.

5.   The method of claim 4, wherein providing the user perceptible battery status indicator comprises displaying a low battery alert when the comparison indicates that the battery status data is less than the predefined status threshold.

Sub. 02

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6.   The method of claim 1, wherein displaying the battery status indicator comprises displaying a gauge representative of a current battery status.

Sub. B1

7.   The method of claim 1, wherein the predefined battery status threshold is

10   user-definable.

8.   A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing a method for indicating the status of a battery in a portable computing device, the method comprising:

Sub. 03

15   retrieving battery status data from a basic input-output system (BIOS) on the computing device, the battery status data reflective of a characteristic of the battery;

comparing the retrieved battery status data to a predefined battery status threshold stored on the computing device; and

based on the comparison of the battery status data to the predefined battery

20   status threshold, providing a battery status indicator to an applications program on the computing device.

9. The computer-readable medium of claim 8, having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for retrieving battery status data relating to the voltage of the battery from the BIOS on the computing device.